

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Koushik Ghosh

DATE: January 16, 2004

RE: Refugee Utilization of Community Mental Health Programs:
Chittenden County, Vermont

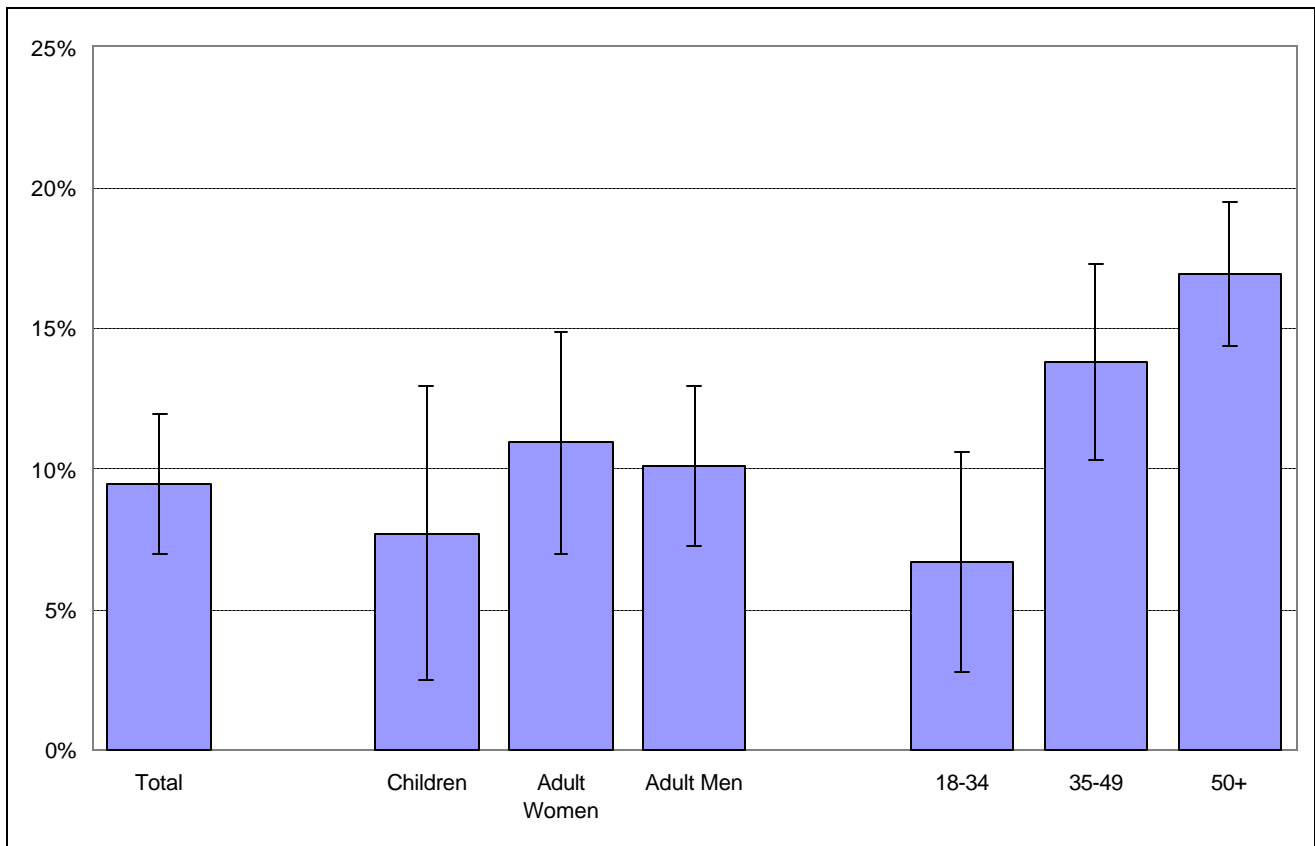
This is the third in a series of PIPs examining utilization of community mental health programs by trauma victims. The first in this series focused on the representation of identified trauma victims among children and adolescents served by community mental health Children's Services programs (www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2003/pip103103.pdf). Findings indicated that a substantial proportion of children's service clients (19%) had an indication of trauma in the CMHC database. The second in this series focused on the proportion of individuals who are treated for injuries in hospital emergency rooms who are also served by one of Vermont's public community mental health programs (www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2003/pip112103.pdf). Findings indicated that 7% of victims of unintentional injury and 21% of assault victims received community mental health services. This week's PIP focuses on the proportion of refugees who were resettled in Chittenden County, Vermont who were served by one of Vermont's public community mental health programs. As with the emergency room analysis, this week's analysis can be considered to be a study of access to care for a high risk population.

Information regarding refugees was drawn from two sources: the Vermont refugee resettlement office (individuals resettled in Chittenden County from October 1999 through September 2003) and the Vermont Department of Health refugee health program (individuals served from July 2000 through June 2002). Data regarding public mental health caseloads were obtained from Vermont's Monthly Service Report database. This database includes detailed client level data for all individuals served in community mental health centers in Vermont during July 2001 through June 2002. The data used in this analysis include the date of birth, gender, and region of residence of each person served. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine the unduplicated number of individuals who appeared in both the mental health and the refugee data sets. Because PPE relies on date of birth and a number of records in the refugee resettlement database included "administrative" dates of birth of January 1, all records with this date of birth were excluded from this analysis. The estimates of caseload overlap provided by PPE, divided by the unduplicated number of refugees is the percent of the injured individuals who received public mental health services.

As you will see, 9%± of the refugees identified for this study received community mental health services. This is similar to the rate at which victims of unintentional injury were served by community mental health programs (7%±), but substantially less than the rate at which victims of assault were served by community mental health programs (21%±). There were no statistically significant differences in utilization of community mental health services by men, women and children. The utilization rate for young adults in the 18-34 age group (7%±), however, was significantly lower than the rates for adults in the 35-49 and 50+ age groups (14%± and 17%±, respectively).

We will welcome any suggestions you have regarding other data sets that could be useful to this project, your suggestions regarding further analysis of these data, and your interpretation of our findings to date. As always, you can reach us at pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

Mental Health Service Utilization by Refugees in Chittenden County, Vermont : FY02-03



| | Total Number | | Refugees Utilizing Mental Health Services | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------|
| | Refugees | Mental Health Services Recipients | Number | Percent |
| Total | 441 ± 4 | 4,893 ± 38 | 42 ± 11 | 9% ± 2% |
| Children | 167 ± 2 | 2,093 ± 32 | 13 ± 9 | 8% ± 5% |
| Adult Women | 134 ± 2 | 1,554 ± 17 | 15 ± 5 | 11% ± 4% |
| Adult Men | 139 ± 2 | 1,246 ± 14 | 14 ± 4 | 10% ± 3% |
| Age | | | | |
| 18-34 | 139 ± 2 | 1,207 ± 16 | 9 ± 5 | 7% ± 4% |
| 35-49 | 105 ± 2 | 939 ± 13 | 14 ± 4 | 14% ± 3% |
| 50+ | 29 ± 1 | 654 ± 7 | 5 ± 1 | 17% ± 3% |

Mental Health includes all individuals who received mental health service from the Howard Center for Human Services during SFY02-03.

Refugees include all individuals resettled in Chittenden county during FFY00-03 and recipients of Department of Health refugee services during FY01-02. The majority of refugees were from Bosnia (58%); other countries with substantial representation include Vietnam and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Because data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to measure caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals). Due to "administrative" dates of birth, those with a birthday recorded as January 1 were excluded from this analysis.